Application No. 10/085,819   Atty. Docket No. 042390.P13682

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Response to Office Action of June 10, 2004   TC/A.U. 2642

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A network comprising:

a first node having a first point code, and a first switching element to selectively couple the first node to other nodes through one or more communication channels; and

a second node having a second point code, <u>a third point code,</u> and a second switching element to establish a first communication channel with the first node, the second node to identify the first communication channel with an identifier that includes, at least, the first point code and <u>one of</u> the second point code <u>and the third point code.</u>

2. (Original) The network of claim 1, wherein the first node and the second node further comprise a network identifier to identify the network.

3. (Original) The network of claim 2, wherein the second node is to identify the communication channel with the identifier that further includes the network identifier.

4. (Canceled) The network of claim 2, wherein the second node further comprises a third point code.

5.   (Currently Amended) The network of claim 4, wherein the second node

establishes a second communication channel with the first node, identified by a second

identifier that includes the first point code and another one of the second point code and

the third point code.

6.   (Original)   The network of claim 5, wherein the second identifier further

includes the network identifier.

7.   (Previously Amended)   The network of claim 6, wherein the second node

has a second network identifier to identify a second network, and establishes a third

communication channel identified by an identifier that includes either the second point

code or the third point code and the second network identifier.

8.   (Original)   The network of claim 7, wherein the second node implements

Common Channel Signaling System No. 7 (SS7) protocols to manage one or more of the

first, second, or third communication channels.

9.   (Original)   The network of claim 8, wherein an Integrated Services Digital

Network User Part (ISUP) layer residing on the second node creates the second and third

identifiers to identify the second and third communication channels.

10.   (Currently Amended) A node comprising:

a switching element to selectively couple the node to a communication channel

with an other node; and

a communication channel identifier agent (CCIA) coupled to the switching

element to identify the communication channel, the CCIA including ~~one~~ two or more

origination identifiers, the ~~one~~ two or more origination identifiers to identify the node,

and a destination identifier, the destination identifier to identify the other node, the CCIA

to use at least one of the ~~one~~ two or more origination identifiers and the destination

identifier to identify the communication channel.

11.   (Previously Amended)   The node of claim 10 wherein, the origination

identifiers are originating point codes (OPCs), the destination identifier is a destination

point code (DPC), and the CCIA creates an interface identifier, the interface identifier

including, at least, one of the one or more OPCs and the DPC.

12.   (Previously Amended)   The node of claim 11 wherein the interface

identifier further includes a network identifier, the network identifier to identify a

network to which the switching element is to connect.

13.   (Previously Amended)   The node of claim 12 wherein the CCIA is to

identify a communication channel from the node to the other node, with an identifier that

represents a combination of the interface identifier and a circuit identification code (CIC).

14.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

creating a first interface identifier, the first interface identifier representing at least

a first origination identifier to identify a first node and a destination identifier to identify

a second node; and

combining the first interface identifier with a circuit identification code (CIC) to

identify a communication channel between the first node the second node;

creating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier representing

at least a second origination identifier to identify the first node and the destination

identifier to identify the second node; and

combining the second interface identifier with the CIC to identify a second

communication channel between the first node and the second node.

15.   (Cancelled)   The method of claim 14 further comprising:

creating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier representing

at least a second origination identifier to identify the first node and the destination

identifier to identify the second node; and

combining the second interface identifier with the CIC to identify a second

communication channel between the first node and the second node.

16.   (Original)   The method of claim 14 wherein the first interface identifier

further includes a first network identifier to identify a network containing the first node.

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17.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 16 wherein the first node

implements the Common Channel Signaling System No. 7 (SS7) protocols to manage the

first communication channel and the second communication channel; and

the first and second origination identifiers are originating point codes and the

destination identifier is a destination point code.

18.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 17 further comprising:

creating a third interface identifier, the third interface identifier including at least

one of the two originating point codes (OPCs) designating the first node, a second

destination point code (DPC) designating a third node, and a second network identifier to

identify a network containing the third node; and

combining the third interface identifier with the CIC to identify a third

communication channel between the first node and the third node.

19.   (Original)   The method of claim 18 wherein the first node implements the SS7

protocols to manage the third communication channel.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an two or more origination identifier identifiers to identify a node;

receiving a destination identifier to identify an other node; and

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generating an interface identifier to identify a communication channel between

the node and the other node, the interface identifier representing ~~at least~~ one of the two or

more origination ~~identifier~~ identifiers and the destination identifier.

21.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 20 further comprising:

receiving a circuit identification code (CIC); and

employing the interface identifier and the CIC to identify the communication

channel between the node and the other node.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising:

~~receiving a second origination identifier, the second origination identifier to~~

~~alternatively identify the node; and~~

generating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier including

~~at least~~ another one of the ~~second~~ two or more origination ~~identifier~~ identifiers and the

destination identifier.

23.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 22 further comprising

employing the second interface identifier and the CIC to identify a second

communication channel between the node and the other node.

24.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising:

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receiving a first network identifier to identify a first network and a second

network identifier to identify a second network;

generating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier including

at least one of the two or more origination identifier identifiers, the destination identifier,

and the second network identifier; and

employing the second interface identifier and the CIC to identify a

communication channel between the node and a node in the second network.

25.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 24 wherein the node is

implementing the Common Channel Signaling System No. 7 (SS7) protocols to manage

the communication channels; and

the origination identifiers are originating point codes and the destination identifier

is a destination point code.

26.   (Original)   The method of claim 25 wherein an Integrated Services Digital

Network User Part (ISUP) layer residing on the node employs the second interface

identifier and the CIC to identify the communication channel between the node and the

node in the second network.

27.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

an electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by

one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to

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receive ~~an~~ <u>two or more</u> origination ~~identifier~~ <u>identifiers</u> to identify a node;

receive a destination identifier to identify an other node; and

generate an interface identifier, the interface identifier including ~~at least~~ <u>one of</u> the

two or more origination ~~identifier~~ <u>identifiers</u> and the destination identifier.

28. (Previously Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the

electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or

more processors cause the one or more processors to

receive a circuit identification code (CIC); and

employ the interface identifier and the CIC to identify a communication channel

between the node and the other node.

29. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the

electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or

more processors cause the one or more processors to

~~receive a second origination identifier, the second origination identifier to~~

~~alternatively identify the node; and~~

generate a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier representing

~~at least~~ <u>another one of</u> the <u>two or more</u> ~~second~~ origination ~~identifier~~ <u>identifiers</u> and the

destination identifier.

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30.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the

electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or

more processors cause the one or more processors to

receive a first network identifier to identify a first network and a second network

identifier to identify a second network;

generate a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier including ~~at~~

~~least~~ one of the two or more origination ~~identifier~~ identifiers, the destination identifier,

and the second network identifier; and

employ the second interface identifier and the CIC to identify a communication

channel between the node and a node in the second network.